

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

After title please insert the following paragraph:

This is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/736,252 filed December 15, 2000, and is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 1, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention relates to a safety belt apparatus for vehicle, in particular motor vehicles ~~in accordance with the preamble of patent claim 1.~~

Please replace paragraph starting at page 2, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

EP 0 298 123 A1 describes a safety belt apparatus in which the transmission which acts on the cam ring is formed as a cycloidal transmission, such as is also used in a safety belt apparatus known from ~~US-PS~~ U.S. Patent No. 5,518,197.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 2, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A transmission of this kind is also provided in a safety belt apparatus for motor vehicles ~~of the kind set forth in the preamble of claim 1~~ (DE 196 48 515 A1), with the cam ring only being rotated through a smaller angle in the end positions of the rotating toothed control wheel, which is just sufficient in order to bring the blocking pawl into or out of engagement with the toothed ratchet wheel. In this known apparatus the inner toothed ring and the toothed control wheel are preferably so formed that the toothed control wheel can execute about a one half revolution between full belt draw in and full belt draw out.

Please insert the following subtitle at page 3, after line 6:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please delete paragraph starting at page 3, line 10 in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 4, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A special embodiment ~~in accordance with claim 2 of the present invention~~ makes provision for a belt tensioner to be activated or deactivated by the additional peripheral surface on the cam ring. It is namely expedient to deactivate a belt tensioner with a non-applied, i.e. drawn-in safety belt, and to first activate it when it has been pulled out by a predetermined amount which is not, however, sufficient in order to be placed around the occupant to be protected. In this manner it is ensured that the belt tensioner is in any event activated after being placed onto an occupant to be protected. Through the invention, the respective activation or deactivation can be effected by the same cam ring which is already responsible for the movement of the blocking pawl in and out of engagement.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 4, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A preferred practical realization of the concept of the invention ~~can be found from claim 3. The includes the~~ use of a tilting element brings about the advantage that a once set blocking pawl position is maintained until a counter-force acts on the tilting element.

Please delete paragraph starting at page 4, line 22 in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 4, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The rotationally fixed and simultaneously radially displaceable connection of the toothed control wheel to the cam ring expediently takes place in accordance with features of the invention described further below with claim 9 .

Please delete paragraph starting at page 5, line 1 in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 5, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to avoid the disadvantages associated with the pull out blocking mechanism of GB 2 131 279 A, the invention provides the certain features of claim 14, with expedient further developments being characterized by the claims 15 to 20. In this manner the trouble-free movement of the teeth of the engageable pawl into the surrounding inner ring of teeth can be ensured, since a fixed and predetermined angular relationship exists between the angles at which the toothed ratchet wheel is stopped by the blocking tooth and the position of the engageable pawl. The These features of claim 20 are a precondition for the precise movement of the engageable pawl into engagement, i.e. that on exceeding the predetermined acceleration boundary value of the belt reel, and with the belt pull out acceleration which normally prevails, the speed of rotation of the toothed ratchet wheel does not lag behind that of the belt reel. In this way an undefined engagement of the engageable pawl into the surrounding inner toothed arrangement is reliably avoided. With extremely large belt pull out accelerations caused by an accident, a rotation of the toothed ratchet wheel is in any event stopped by the generally provided blocking mechanism for the toothed ratchet wheel, which responds to pronounced vehicle accelerations or decelerations and large deviations of the vehicle from the horizontal position. In this case the belt pull out blocking mechanism is thus not required.

Please insert the following subtitle at page 5, before line 24:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following subtitle at page 7, before line 1:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION